

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC-AGENDA ITEM 16 - GUIDELINES ON POPULATION -
RELATED FACTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS (E/5780)

REF: GENEVA 6222

1. SUMMARY: AFTER A BRIEF, LARGELY SUPERFICIAL DISCUSSION OF E/5780, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON 2 AUGUST ADOPTED A DECISION, PROPOSED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, BY WHICH THE COUNCIL WOULD TAKE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION OF THE REPORT AND TRANSMIT IT TO THE POPULATION COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION. FOLLOWING THE DECISION THE CHINESE DELEGATION BRIEFLY EXPLAINED THE CHINESE RESERVATION TO THE COUNCIL TAKING NOTE OF THE REPORT "WITH SATISFACTION."
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING AN EXCELLENT INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF THE ITEM DOCUMENT BY LEON TABAH, DIRECTOR OF THE UN POPULATION DIVISION, ON 27 JULY ONLY NINE SPEAKERS (IPPF, MEXICO, THE US, ALGERIA, DENMARK, ARGENTINA, JAPAN, THE UK AND THE USSR) ADDRESSED THE ITEM OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT WEEK BEFORE THE COMMITTEE
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DECIDED THE COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT AND

PASS IT ALONG TO THE POPULATION COMMISSION FOR "FURTHER CONSIDERATION."

2. TABAH INNHIS INTRODUCTION:

A) UNDERLINED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FACTORS AND STRESSED POPULATION FACTORS "WERE NOT PASSIVE"

B) STRESSED THAT DESPITE THE EMERGING CONSENSUS FLOWING FROM THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN DUE ATTENTION IN THE FORMULATION OF MOST NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS; AND

C) ACKNOWLEDGED NUMEROUS SHORTCOMINGS AND INADEQUACIES IN E/5780 RESULTING FROM INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE A MORE THOROUGH AND THROUGH-OUT REPORT AND (ECHOING PAGE 2 OF E/5780) SAID THE COUNCIL MIGHT WISH TO REQUEST THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO PROCEED WITH PREPARATION OF A MORE TECHNICAL REPORT. TABAH EVEN PREPARED A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THAT EFFECT BUT WAS UNABLE TO FIND A WILLING SPONSOR FOR HIS RESOLUTION.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE IPPF INTERVENTION THE EIGHT OTHER INTERVENTIONS WERE BRIEF, GENERAL AND IN MOST CASES SUPERFICIAL. NONE OF THE INTERVENTIONS WERE POINTEDLY CRITICAL OF E/5780 ALTHOUGH THE RUSSIONS WERE A BIT UNHAPPY THAT THE DOCUMENT DID NOT BETTER POINT OUT THE LINKAGES BETWEEN POPULATION AND THEIR FAVORITE THEME -- INDUSTRIALIZATION.

4. THE US STATEMENT AGREED WITH TABAH'S ASSESSMENT THAT E/5780 HAD NUMEROUS SHORTCOMINGS AND SHOULD REALISTICALLY BE VIEWED AS ONLY A RIST STEP. DRAWING ON UNEC D 369 AND ITS APPENDIX, THE US STATEMENT ALSO PUT FORWARD VAIIOUS SUGGESTIONS TO ENCHANCE THE USEFULNESS AND MARKETABILITY OF ANY FOLLOW-ON DOCUMENT.

5. THE ALGERIA AND MEXIOC DELEGATIONS DESCRIBED HOW AT THEIR NATIONAL ELVELS THEY HAD ADOPTED AND BEGAN TO UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CONTAINED AN INTEGRATED POPULATION ELEMENT INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING. THE ARGENTINA DELEGATION SAID THAT E/5780 SIGNED A FINAL REORIENTATION OF POPULATION ACHTIVITIES WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM REAFFIRMING THE SORT OF INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT FACTORS HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS ADVOCATED.

6. THE UK DELEGATION SAID NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE ABOUT E/5780. HOWEVER, HAVING BEEN THE SPONSOR OF UN RESOLUTION 1953 (LVIII), WHICH CALLED FOR PREPARATION OF SUBJECT REPORT, THEY LET IT BE KNOWN TO TABAH AND OTHERS THEY FAVORED SEEING E/5780 FORWARDED TO THE POPULATION COMMISSION FOR FURTHER STUDY RATHER THAN A MORE TECHNICAL REPORT AS SUGGESTED BY TABAH AND PAGE 2 OF E/5780 ITSELF.

7. COPIES OF THE US AND IPPF STATEMENTS ON THE ITEM ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO AID/W.

8. THE FINAL TEXT OF THE DECISION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND ORALLY AMENDED BY GREECE, THE USSR AND THE US READS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE CONCIL TAKES NOT WITH SATISFACTOR OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON GUIDELINES ON POPULATION-RELATED FACTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS (DOCUMENT E/5780) AND TRANSMITS IT, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMENTS MADE THEREON AT THE 61ST ECOSOC, TO THE POPULATION COMMISSION FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AT UTS 19TH SESSION. UNQUOTE

9. FOLLOWING THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE THE CHINESE DELEGATE TOOK THE FLOOR TO SAY THAT CHINA COULD NOT JOIN IN NOTING THE REPORT "WITH SATISFACTION" AS IT DID NOT SHARE CERTAIN (UNNAMED) VIEWS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. AS HAD ALSO BEEN THE CASE WITH THE UNFPA DRAFT RESOLUTION (SEE GENEVA 6222), IT WAS AGAIN GREEK AMBASSADOR CARANICAS WHO ORALLY AMENDED THE RESOLUTION (ADDING THE WORDS "WITH SATISFACTION") IN A WELL MEANING BUT UNHELPFUL MANNER. CATTO

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